Atty Dkt No. APF 40.01 USSN: 09/846,091

PATENT

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, and SEQ ID NO: 3) depicts an amino acid sequence alignment of the extracellular domains of the M2 proteins of 37 different influenza type A strains, wherein the amino acid residues in bold text denote the variable amino acid positions.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10) shows the M2 coding sequence for the influenza strain A/Kagoshima/10/95 (H3N2) that was used in the methods of Example 1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 11) is an annotated depiction of the nucleotide sequence of the pM2-FL plasmid.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 48, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

AH

--Blood samples were collected two weeks following the second and third immunizations. Sera were analyzed for M2-specific antibody responses using an ELISA assay in which 96-well plates were pre-coated with an M2 synthetic peptide consisting of the following sequence: NH₂-SLLTEVETPIRNEWECR-COOH (SEQ ID NO:8). ELISA plates were coated with the M2 peptide overnight at 4°C using the peptide in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) at a concentration of 1 μ g/ml. On the next day, plates were blocked with 2% bovine serum albumin (BSA) in PBS for 1 hour at room temperature and were then washed three times with wash buffer (10 mM Tris-buffered saline, 0.1% Brij-35). Serum samples, diluted in 1% BSA / PBS / 0.1% Tween-20, were added to the plates and incubated at room temperature for 2 hours. Plates were then washed three times with wash buffer. The detection antibody consisted of a goat anti-swine / horse radish peroxidase conjugate diluted 1:3200 in PBS / 0.1% Tween-20. After addition of the diluted detection antibody, plates were incubated at room temperature for 60 minutes. Plates were again washed three times with was buffer and 100 μ l of TMP substrate was added. After 20 minutes, color development was stopped by the addition of 1N H₂SO₄. Plates were read at 450 nm.--